

# Order

Michigan Supreme Court  
Lansing, Michigan

May 5, 2006

Clifford W. Taylor,  
Chief Justice

130136

Michael F. Cavanagh  
Elizabeth A. Weaver  
Marilyn Kelly  
Maura D. Corrigan  
Robert P. Young, Jr.  
Stephen J. Markman,  
Justices

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,  
Plaintiff-Appellee,

v

SC: 130136  
COA: 265210  
Genesee CC: 04-013815-FH

RICKIE GENE SPRAGUE,  
Defendant-Appellant.

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On order of the Court, the application for leave to appeal the November 15, 2005 order of the Court of Appeals is considered and, pursuant to MCR 7.302(G)(1), in lieu of granting leave to appeal, we REVERSE the August 31, 2005 order of the Genesee Circuit Court denying defendant's motion to withdraw plea, and REMAND this case to the Genesee Circuit Court for resentencing. If the circuit court chooses not to follow the prosecutor's sentence recommendation, defendant will be allowed to withdraw from the plea agreement. MCR 6.302(C)(3).

We do not retain jurisdiction.

YOUNG, J., concurs and states as follows:

I concur in the order remanding this case to the Genesee Circuit Court for resentencing because the plain language of MCR 6.302(C)(3) compels it. However, I question the reasoning and analytical underpinnings of the court rule, which is a codification of *People v Killebrew*, 416 Mich 189 (1982).

In this case, defendant pleaded guilty in exchange for a prosecutorial sentencing recommendation. The prosecution fulfilled its end of the agreement, recommending a sentence of probation with drug counseling. However, because the sentencing judge did not follow the nonbinding recommendation, our court rules mandate that defendant be permitted to withdraw a voluntarily, knowingly, and willingly entered guilty plea.

I cannot understand why a guilty plea given in exchange for a prosecutorial sentencing recommendation is vitiated by the court's disinclination to follow the recommendation. More important, I do not understand the rationale of *Killebrew* that a defendant, having obtained the benefit of a bargain with the prosecutor, can withdraw his plea when a court refuses to follow the recommendation. *People v Cobbs*, 443 Mich 276 (1993), was decided after *Killebrew* and undermined the rationale underpinning *Killebrew*. The principles that make withdrawal possible under similar circumstances in a *Cobbs* plea, where the court is a party to the plea agreement, have no applicability in a *Killebrew* plea. I welcome the opportunity to address the reasoning and rationale of the *Killebrew* decision, and favor amending MCR 6.302(C)(3).

CORRIGAN, J., joins the statement of YOUNG, J.

WEAVER, J., would grant leave to appeal.



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I, Corbin R. Davis, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

May 5, 2006

*Corbin R. Davis*

Clerk